

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

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SEPTEMBER, 1912

No. 11

Mrs. Rudisill will entertain the ladies of the church at her home Thursday afternoon, September 19. Every woman in the church is invited to this social gathering.

Mrs. Weller will entertain the Woman's Missionary society at her home on Monroe street Thursday afternoon, October 3.

The Woman's Aid society will have its monthly meeting Thursday afternoon, October 10, in the lecture rooms of the church. From 5 to 8 o'clock the women will serve a penny supper. They will have meat, baked beans, potatoes, cabbage, celery coffee, bread, butter, etc.

Our women are already planning for their annual sale and supper in December. Committees have been appointed to solicit for the supper and sale.

The committee appointed by the president of the Aid society to purchase a carpet for the church auditorium has selected and bought a carpet from the Rurde Dry Goods Co. The carpet will be ready to put down by the time the pipe organ will be installed. The carpet committee and the managers of the different sections are soliciting for monthly payments to the carpet fund. Give these women who are doing the laborious work of soliciting every encouragement you can.

The pastor is still receiving pledges and contributions for the organ. So far over one hundred pledges and cash contributions have been received.

The response has certainly been very unanimous and liberal. Within the past few weeks we have received three very generous cash contributions. Others who have not yet given have assured us that they would do their part. If any of our people fail to contribute to this fund it will not be because they have not been solicited, for appeals have been made again and again from the pulpit and through the parish paper. We need the help of every family and member of the church. Give what you can even though it may be only a small amount. You will want to make some investment in the organ. We hope to have the organ installed by the middle of next month, and have the dedication the third Sunday or last Sunday of the month. We will have the dedicatory service in the morning, a musical program by the choir in the evening and the organ recital on Thursday evening of that week.

PRAYER MEETING AND MISSIONARY CAMPAIGN.

Feeling the need of a deeper interest and a larger attendance at the prayer meetings the young people of the Christian Endeavor society have inaugurated a campaign with the hope that we may secure the attendance of the whole membership of the church at the mid-week service and that these meetings will be become a great blessing to our people. There is no other gathering or service of the church that can take the place of the

prayer meeting and that means so much for the spiritual life and activity of the church. What is true of the power of prayer in life of the child of God, is equally true of the power of prayer in the life of the church. The praying church becomes a Spirit filled church and a church of power and activity. The praying church is a soul winning church.

The hope of our young people is to awaken new interest in the church, greater activity, and a deeper spiritual life. They are setting their mark high and they have a perfect right to do this. No man can measure the power of prayer, nor the possibilities of a praying church. With God all things are possible. There are at least a few things we want to ask of the members of the church in connection with this campaign of the young people. Pray and work for the success of the undertaking, co-operate with them in every way, come to the prayer meeting, help to make it a mighty power in the church, bring your friends with you. The Young Peoples society has been divided into two bands. Each band is headed with a leadership of three efficient workers. Each band will work for the largest membership and attendance at the meetings. Miss Lulu Bitner, Miss Bertha Weichart and Mr. Jones constitute the leaders of one band, Miss Hazel Gooley, Miss Nora Minor and Mr. Robert Schmidt the leaders of the other. The campaign will continue for the months of September, October and November. At each prayer meeting there will be a mission study of ten or fifteen minutes; the other part of the hour will be devoted to prayer, song and testimony, as the Holy Spirit may direct. Different persons will be appointed to lead in the mission study. The topics for the study will be those outlined by the

Home Mission Council, as follows:

- Sept. 4—Negroes and Indians.
- Sept. 11—Spanish Americans.
- Sept. 18—The Frontier.
- Sept. 25—Immigrants.
- Oct. 2—Country Life.
- Oct. 9—City Problems.
- Oct. 16—Women and Children in Industry.
- Oct. 23—Saloon and Temperance Reform.
- Oct. 30—Social Conditions and Movements.
- Nov. 6—The Church as a Religious Force.
- Nov. 13—The Church as a Social Agency.
- Nov. 20—The Church as a Unified Program of Advance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

We are entering upon the fall campaign of church work and activity. The pastor is anxious to get the church to work and see great things done for the Lord. We have always appointed committees to which special work has been assigned so that we might do more efficient and systematic work. At the Sabbath morning service, September 8 the pastor announced these committees as they have been constituted for several years, with some additions and a few new committees, as follows:

Committee on Church Membership and Visitation—The Pastor and Elders with the following additions: Mrs. C. F. Close, Mr. Bitner, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Hesserdt, Mrs. Bottger, Mrs. Boger, Mrs. Brewer, Mrs. Wilbert. Mrs. Kessler.

Financial Committee—The Deacons of the Church.

Sunday School Committee—The Officers and Teachers of the Sunday School.

Music Committee—H. E. Vordermark, W. F. Close, Mrs. Leikauf, Mrs. Zartman, Mr. A. Jones.

Janitor and Repairs—J. W. Brewer, E. C. Close, H. E. Metzner, Oscar Snook, Mrs. Siebold, Mrs. Straub.

'Missionary Committee—Mrs. Zartman, Mrs. C. H. Gumper, Miss Anna Doermer, Mrs. F. E. More, L. W. Hills, Miss Lulu Bitner, Mrs. H. E. Metzger.

Prayer Meeting and Missionary Campaign Committee—Miss Lulu Bitner, Miss Bertha Weickart, Mr. Jones, Miss Hazel Gooley, Miss Nora Minor, Robert Schmidt.

A SKETCH OF "THE GREAT AMERICAN DESPOTISM."

(Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society.)

Beautiful for situation is "Zion" (the favorite name for Salt Lake City), sur-rounded as it is by the "everlasting hills," snow-capped for most of the year; with its broad, shady streets and exhilarating climate. The Heavenly Father has been very gracious to the people of Utah in giving abundantly of all good things. The riches of the state in gold, silver, coal, iron and other metals can not be estimated. Indeed, it is said that all known minerals except the diamond are found in Utah. Fruits of many varieties are found in abundance.

Salt Lake and Ogden are the two largest cities of the state, according to the present census. The growth of Salt Lake City is phenomenal. Great buildings are in the process of erection on every hand. Capitalists believe in the future of the city and are expending millions of money. The two principal railroad centers here have during the last two or three years erected magnificent depots. The tourist travel is enormous the year around.

A custodian of the Temple grounds is always ready to escort strangers and answer the many questions which visitors are continually asking. From April to October, daily organ recitals are given upon the great Tabernacle organ. To these recitals which are furnished by the Mormon Church, the public is freely invited. The bureau of information on the temple grounds is open all day for the convenience of the tourist or inquirers, and the courtesy and willingness of the officials to explain their doctrines to all who ask, win for them many friends. To each caller is given a copy of their Articles of Faith and other literature. As these Articles of Faith are read, they seem at first to very nearly embody the principles taught by our evangelical church; but a little study reveals the fact that so far as they are concerned, an entirely different interpretation is placed upon many of these doctrines.

The tabernacle is a building with seating capacity of about eight thousand and contains one of the greatest pipe organs in the world. They have a large choir of five hundred voices. Services are held in this building every Sunday afternoon from two to four o'clock.

As to the views held by the Mormons concerning God, allow me to quote from their manual for 1901, 2nd part, page 17: "As Man is God was, as God is Man may be." Notice their teaching in regard to the Bible, in putting in on a par with the book of Mormon. "Has God given many revelations to men? Yes, a great number. Where have we any account of his doing so? In the Bible, the book of Mormon, the book of doctrine and covenants and other publications of the Latter Day Saints."

In the extreme southeast of this city there is a school with eight grades.

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REV. A. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher

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The teachers are all Mormons. In the lower grades the children are taught each day to pray for Joseph Smith, all the Bishops and Prophets. Many of these children are Gentiles.

If the children attend Sunday school or any of our church services, they rarely come three consecutive times. Very soon we learn that the Bishop of the ward has called and forbidden their coming. In one of our Mission Sunday Schools a bishop actually offered to pay a little girl if she would leave our Sunday School and go to theirs.

One very encouraging feature is this—when I come upon a group of children at play and after inquiring about the game ask them how many go to Sunday School, almost invariably most of them drop their eyes. The Gentile child is quick to answer but the Mormon child is ashamed to tell. I usually help them out by asking if they go over to the ward Sunday School and “yes” comes very quickly then. If the little ones now growing up are ashamed, is it not a reason to hope that the next generation will be more ashamed? This is one of the strong arguments in favor of keeping up and vigorously pushing our missionary work in Utah.

Hear how they regard Christians! “The very religion of modern Christianity is now about as great a curse as can be inflicted upon its possessors without doing violence to their power of free agency. The modern Christians with the Bible in their hands are in as gross darkness as the worshipers of Baal. The God they worship is no

more like the person of Christ or the person of Man than Baal was.”

We find in the Mormon journal of discourses that Apostle Orson Hyde makes the following statement: “We say that it was Jesus Christ who was married at Cana to the Marys and Martha, whereby he could see his seed before he was crucified.”

Their belief in polygamy is unshaken, as they themselves acknowledge, though they tell you that owing to the law of the land they do not practice it. But no one who lives in Utah and knows anything of conditions here will grant for one moment that polygamy is not practiced. Out in one of the rural districts of the state an agent passed soliciting orders for enlarging photographs. At the first house the wife gave him a photo as did the ones living in the next three houses, each picture being of the husband of the woman giving it. All were photographs of the same man! The Salt Lake Tribune of Aug., 1910, gives the names of 139 men who have married since the “Manifesto,” 1880.

The entire system of Mormonism is steeped through and through with sensuality. How can it be otherwise, when such doctrines are taught as the following:

“The great principle consists in having a body. The devil has no body and this is his punishment.” Joe Smith.

At a wedding reception held in our city a man with three wives was present. The gentleman in question spent most of the time in discoursing to the bride and groom upon the duty of raising children in order that the souls of gods and men floating in space might be furnished bodies.

Profanity, intemperance and obscenity are common among those who take high rank in the Church. Quite

recently one member of a well-known business firm of this city became very intemperate. His wife went to the bishop of that ward and offered to pay the church well if they would send her husband on a mission. He went and returned a reformed man. Let a young man become lukewarm in the faith, or skeptical, as did a bright young fellow, the son of one of the apostles; he was forthwith sent on a mission and returned at the close of his term thoroughly grounded in the faith.

I presume you all know of the Tithing System, but only those loving here know of the suffering and privation it costs the man and family of small means.

Miss Nora Minor, accompanied by several of her young friends, spent her vacation during August at Niagara Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Close, Miss Stella Bottger, Robert Schmidt and Oscar Snook had a two weeks' outing at our northern lakes. They had a very pleasant trip.

Miss Lulu Bitner spent a week with friends at Pittsburg during the month of August.

Mr. Heyman and Jaunita have just returned from a month's visit with friends at Payne, Paulding and Bellevue, O.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert had a very pleasant visit recently from Mr. Wilbert's father and sister from Carol, O. Mr. Wilbert is an annual visitor to our city. We regretted very much that he did not get to Winona, where we expected to meet him.

Mrs. Knight has just returned from a visit with her son, John, at Richmond, Ind.

Miss Esther Fritz entertained the Young People's society at its busi-

ness meeting for the month of August. Miss Elsie and Miss Bertha Weickart for September.

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Y. P. S. C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS.

Sept. 15—Getting the most from prayer. SS. 34:1-22. Elsie Weickart.

Sept. 22—Believe! Believe much! Believe strongly. John 11:97-27; 41-46, Robert Schmidt.

Sept. 29—Missionary boldness, Acts 4:13, 13-31, Bertha Biener.

Oct. 6—Humility, Luke 18:9-17, Nora Minor.

Oct. 13—You can do better, 2 Set. 3:8-18, led by pastor.

Oct.—Christian sociability, Rom. 14:16-19, 15:1-3, led by social committee.

The following ladies of Grace Church attended the Bible Conference at Winona: Mrs. Boger, Mrs. C. F. Close, Mrs. Kate Certia, Mrs. Bitner, Miss Lizzie Rudisill, Miss Hazel Gooley. We are sorry that our church could not have a larger representation at the conference. You will only need to go to Winona once and you will have a heartache to return each year. It is somewhat surprising that Fort Wayne has such a small representation at Winona when hundreds of people come there year after year from such far away cities and localities. It is certainly a delightful place to be. It seems like heaven upon earth to enjoy the fellowship of such a company of christian people and to breathe the spiritual and religious atmosphere of the place. If you want inspiration and a spiritual uplift go to Winona.

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